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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9200
INFO RUEHXR/RWANDA COLLECTIVE
RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
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RUZEJAA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK

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SENSITIVE
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [PHUM](#) [PREF](#) [KPKO](#) [CG](#)
SUBJECT: EASTERN DRC NOTES - FEBRUARY 17

¶1. (U) The items contained in this report consist principally of spot information from various sources. This report is not exhaustive, nor can all the information contained therein be confirmed at this time.

Security Situation in Eastern DRC

¶2. (SBU) MONUC reported that the FPRI attacked the village of Kileheye, in the vicinity of Lake Albert in Ituri District. MONUC officials in Bunia have warned that FPRI and FPJC elements remain active in the area around Lake Albert. The head of the MONUC office in Bunia claims as many as 8,200 such elements are in Ituri (Comment: We believe it highly unlikely that the number of active fighters there is anywhere near this number. End comment). Separately, a MONUC civil affairs officer in Bunia told PolOff that the important point was that the local population and administration have no sympathy for the militias and will not assist them.

¶3. (SBU) MONUC also reported that formed CNDP units appear to be joining the 85th brigade, which has worked closely with FDLR miners in the region north of Walikale. MONUC sources have counted more than 500 CNDP fighters airlifted from Goma to Walikale, Kindu and Nyabiondo. MONUC has been unable to verify rumors that CNDP commander Makenge may be put in charge of these fighters, or given a role in the 85th brigade (Comment: The 85th has long provided protection for the FDLR in the region, even helping the rebels to hunt down deserters on occasion. If the 85th in its current form is dismantled, it will send a powerful signal that the FARDC is serious about pushing the FDLR out of the mining sites. End comment).

¶4. (SBU) FARDC salaries are late, but disbursement may have started over the weekend. General Numbi must authorize pay for the hastily integrated CNDP, and the new expense could be a problem that could put pressure on the coalition. In addition, MONUC sees no indication that the RDF has prepared to launch operations in South Kivu (Comment: There would be no time for such operations if the RDF is going to adhere to its end of the month deadline to vacate the DRC. End comment). However, MONUC will support the FARDC if they decide to take on the FDLR in South Kivu on their own.

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